REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated October 25, 2010.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the draft amendment to claim 1 provided by the Examiner's on pages 13 and 14 of the Office Action considered to distinguish patentability over the art of record. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, and therefore is now allowable.

It is further submitted that all of the other independent claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20 have also been amended in a manner similar to claim 1, and therefore are now allowable as well. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No. 10/657,194 Attorney Docket No. 021669

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

/THOMAS E. BROWN/
Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,450
Telephone: (202) 822-1100

Facsimile: (202) 822-1110

TEB/nrp